



# Red River Current

MAY 2014

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## GOLD FOR WARRIORS

Fort McKay's hockey players have brought home the gold, in truck-loads.

Every year kids from all over the Wood Buffalo Region look forward to a weekend of Native Hockey, the one weekend that friends and cousins often get to play together as a team. Six teams representing Wood Buffalo Native Hockey Club travelled to Edmonton April 2-6th for the Alberta Native Hockey Provincials. Fort McKay registered kids in several age groups, with a majority registered in Jr. Novice and Sr. Novice as well as the Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget teams.

Players representing Fort McKay on the Jr. novice team included: Ashton Quintal, Noah Fitzpatrick, Tayden Shott, Keegan Shott, Brayden Lacorde, Kayleigh Boucher, and Blaize Bouchier. The teams were coached by Simon Adams, who was assisted by BJ Fitzpatrick and Cory Jackson. With three wins and one tie in their division, the youngest team brought home gold and a new banner to hang in the Fort McKay Arena.

Players representing Fort McKay on the Sr. Novice team included:  
(Continued on page 2)

<i>Community Awards</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Pow Wow</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Historical Pics</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Art by Jason Gladue</i>	<b>9</b>
<i>On the River</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Oiler's Camp</i>	<b>11</b>

**5****11****3**



# HOCKEY STARS BRING HOME THE GOLD

(Continued from page 1)



**Fort McKay players from the Junior Novice 2014 Alberta Native Hockey Provincial Championship team.**



## **FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Jim Boucher, Chief  
Raymond Powder, Councillor  
David Bouchier, Councillor  
Gerald Gladue, Councillor  
Ruth McKenzie, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO  
Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

## **ADMINISTRATION DEPT.**

Dorothy McDonald Business Centre  
General Delivery  
Fort McKay, AB T0P 1C0  
Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:  
Mon. to Thurs. - 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday - 8:30am - 2:00pm

## **SUBMISSIONS**

Cort Gallup, Editor  
If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Cort at [cgallup@fortmckay.com](mailto:cgallup@fortmckay.com) or call 780-838-6061.



**The first championship banners to hang in the new arena.**

Jayden Shott, Tyrese Shott, Exander Lacorde, Kai Ro Grandjambe, and Sky Orr, coached by Brent Devost. After a few nail biting games and a couple of losses, the team really came together and brought home the gold medals in their division and a Sr. novice Championship banner to hang in the arena.

For many of our kids, this hockey tournament is one of the few they get to participate in and take away valuable experiences that they wouldn't otherwise get to experience.

Joining this year's Wood Buffalo teams also included: James Black, Keely Courtorielle, Anton Grandjambe, Seth Grandjambe, Ethan Grandjambe, Raymond Cardinal, Austin Beaton-Janvier, Jace Shott, Tyrell Shott, Trace Quintal, Evrett Quintal, Everett Reid, Reanna Whiteknife, and Riley Whiteknife.

All the Fort McKay hockey players proved to be great athletes all around, with hearts of gold.

*-Lolita Shott, contributing writer/photographer*



**2014 Alberta Native Hockey Senior Novice Provincial champions.**





# COMMUNITY MEMBERS AWARDED



**From left to right: Loretta Boucher, Shirley Mercredi, Jared Boucher, Star Grandjambe, Christian McDonald, Destiny Young, Dallas McDonald, Savannah Kaiser, and Donna Grandjambe.**

On April 16th 2014, over a hundred and eighty community members gathered together at the Father Begin Community Hall to celebrate Fort McKay's Community Gold Awards. This celebration was created to recognize individuals for their numerous achievements and contributions to our community.

The evening was hosted by Cort Gallup and Frederick McDonald. Performers included the Fort McKay's Northwind Dancers and drummers Nick Giant, Mitch Mercredi and Tyler Young.

In total, 11 different categories were presented to individuals who excelled within Fort McKay. The awarded individuals include Bouchier Group (Business of the Year), Clara Mercier and Leona Grandjambe (Culture), Rick Grandjambe, Lolita Shott and

Clara Boucher (Community Enrichment), Simon Adams (Community Engagement) Fort McKay Wellness Centre (Community Safety), Dwayne Bacon (Fire Fighter Service), Rod Hyde (Lifetime Achievement), Ron Quintal (Mentorship), Mikeela Cooper, Reanna Whiteknife, Aliyah Ross (Youth Role Model), and Rose Boucher, Dora L'hommecourt, Cort Gallup, Donna Grandjambe (Special Honours).

Graduates were also presented with Education Milestone Awards recognizing their dedication and hard work. They included Loretta Boucher, Brenda Grandjambe, Kristen L'hommecourt, and Lori Mercredi (Alternative Diploma E-Learning), Jared Boucher, Iris McClure, Star Grandjambe, Christian McDonald, Destiny Young (General Diploma), Dallas McDonald,

Walter Orr Jr. (Vocational Program Certificate), and Savannah Kaiser, Donna Grandjambe (Keyano College- Grade 12 equivalent).

We would like to thank Fort McKay Northwind Dancers and drummers for their unforgettable presentation. We would also like to thank all of those who helped prepare and plan the event. Most importantly, we would like to thank the community members who help make Fort McKay a great place to live.

Congratulations to all of the recipients of the Fort McKay Community Gold Awards 2014!! You all truly make a difference in the lives of others within this community!





# A POW WOW WITH WOW FACTOR

The Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque is the pow wow of all pow wows. 3800 dancers, 3000 drummers and over 100,000 in all at one pow wow, and this year Fort McKay was in the house again. Dancers performed during the Grand Entry of the Gathering of Nations, held in University Arena (a.k.a. the Pit), at the University of New Mexico.

Fort McKay was well represented this year by Northwind Dancers Feather McDonald and Taylor McDonald. Could you imagine a Grand Entry with that many drummers and dancers?

“Grand Entry was very overwhelming for me; there were a lot of dancers in the arena,” says Feather McDonald. “I remember being surrounded by men and women, and how loud the drums were. When I was standing and dancing, tears started to come to my eyes. I felt a strong spiritual connection in myself to the pow wow. I felt at home.”

When the Fort McKay girls first arrived they were met by Shirley Hill, champion pow wow dancer and regalia maker. Hill was a judge three years ago for Miss Indian World. She declined this year to judge dancing so she could spend more time teaching the girls. She was also a mentor to the first McKay girls who attended the last Gathering Of Nations, and worked with McKay kids with Northwind dancers in the past.

The Fort McKay dancers were introduced to many champion dancers and witnessed new dances that are not practiced in Canada. Shirley Hill explained the protocols, different styles of dancing, regalia, and spiritual significance of each dance.

Other than the po wow, the girls got the opportunity to tour Santa Fe and visit various Art Galleries, which was quite a treat since both are passionate in arts. They also attended Miss Indian World Pageant, visited the Cultural Centre and tried many different types



of Mexican cuisine.

“This is the second time I have brought students to Gathering of Nations. Last time Miranda McDonald, Katherine McDonald, Mary Pike and Kirsten L’Hommecourt attended. Shirley was also instrumental in our huge success at the World Conference on Healing in Hawaii, where three students ( Alicia Orr, Mary Pike & Chelsea Orr)



**There were 3800 dancers, 3000 drummers and over 100,000 in all at one pow wow.**





# GATHERING OF NATIONS POW WOW



**Left Photo:** Feather McDonald, Shirley Hill, Ona Fiddler-Berteig and Taylor McDonald.  
**Right Photo:** Taylor and Feather posing with Miss Indian Manitoba and Miss Indian World.

conducted a workshop on the importance of Culture in high school retention for Aboriginal students.” Explained Ona Fiddler-Berteig; Mentor for the E-Learning Centre.

“It is significant that the majority of successful students in E-Learning are involved in some aspect of cultural retention or adoption. I sincerely believe that one of the most important things we do at E-Learning is to afford students the opportunity to sometimes discover, develop, maintain and nourish their dignity through cultural pride. With dignity comes a profound understanding of destiny.”

“The importance of cultural pride and its attending impact on dignity and destiny of the individual student is critical. Having students attend events where there is pride in culture and a sense of belonging encourages them to reach their full potential. Inspire awards, pow wows, youth conferences... while expensive at times, really in the long term are very cost effective. Students who participate with joy and pride in their cultural heritage become productive members of their communities: they have to live ‘cleanly’ (no drugs or alcohol) if they dance pow wow and generally as they begin to understand more fully their rich heritage they become more involved with issues that impact their lives.”

When asked how she felt about her experience, Taylor explained: “Pow wow dancing and going to pow wows is important because I understand that we are losing our culture slowly. It’s up to us, the next generation, to carry on our ways of life. Not only that but pow wow dancing connects us all as people, some of us dance for the same reason and it’s to bring joy to our communities and families. Also attending pow wows let’s us see more of the world, let’s us see more diverse culture.”



**Feather McDonald, Taylor McDonald and Shirley Hill.**



**Taylor enjoying a well deserved nap after her long day at the pow wow.**





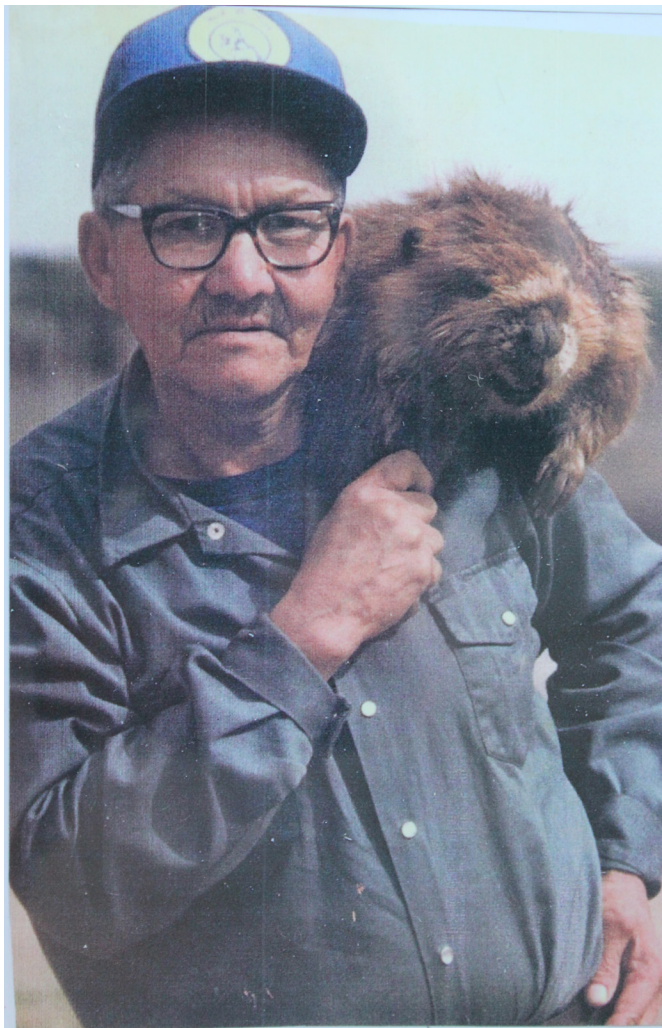
# OUR HISTORY, A LOOK BACK



**top left photo:**  
Alice Boucher scraping  
moose hide beside her  
house on the south side  
(early 80's)

**bottom left:**  
Harvey Boucher  
carrying a beaver on his  
shoulder (early 80's).

**bottom right:**  
Scotty Stuart  
holding a jackfish that  
he caught at the mouth of  
the Red  
River (1984)





# BINGO!!!



Elders enjoying time with friends and playing Bingo at the Elders Centre. Please contact the Elders centre to find out when the monthly next Bingo event will be scheduled.

## FREE VETERINARIAN SERVICES!



ALBERTA  
SPAY NEUTER  
TASK FORCE



Don't forget, the Fort McKay Sustainability Department (SD) is hosting an Animal Wellness Clinic June 6th to the 9th in the Fort McKay Arena.

Spaying and neutering makes your pets healthier and improves behaviour. The Fort McKay Sustainability Department is offering a FREE opportunity to Fort McKay community members to have their pets spayed/neutered, vaccinated, tattooed and registered. This service can normally cost over \$500. The clinic will take place at the arena on June 7-9.

## MONTHLY CREE

LAST MONTH:

"Tansi." = "Hello, how are you?"  
"Moynandoe." = "I am fine."

THIS MONTH:

"ki'n~a ma'ka?" = "And you?"





# BECOME A WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER



Portage College in Lac La Biche, Alberta will be offering Wildland Firefighting-Firetack Crew Member courses this spring/summer.

What Training do the students receive?

Students will receive twelve days of fire training covering such topics as Wildfire Management & Fire Behaviour, Wildfire Preparedness, and Wildfire Operations. In addition students will receive an additional six days of safety training. Upon successful completion of the Wildland Firetack Crew Member Program students will receive a Wildland Firefighting Certificate from the Alberta Government as well as certification in Bear Awareness, Radio Operator (Aeronautical), WHMIS, TDG Air, TDG Ground, 1st Aid, and WTA Chainsaw.

Tuition: \$2,355.00  
Housing: \$345.00 (optional)  
Meals: \$900.00 (optional)  
Recreation Fee: \$25.00 (optional)

To register a student(s) or for more information please call Jennifer at 780-623-4573. Spots are still available for our March 31-April 19, 2014 and April 28-May 17, 2014 courses.

Thank-you.

Jen

Jennifer Mueller  
Program Facilitator  
Community and Industry Training Initiatives (CiTi)  
Portage College - Lac La Biche Campus  
Phone: 780-623-4573 Fax: 780-623-5616  
E-mail: [jennifer.mueller@portagecollege.ca](mailto:jennifer.mueller@portagecollege.ca)  
Box 417, 9531-94 Ave., Lac La Biche, Alberta T0A 2C0  
<http://d22r54gnmuhwmk>

## ABORIGINAL PRE-TRADE TRAINEES WANTED

June 2, 2014 – Sept. 5, 2014 – Millwright, Electricians, and Insulators.

Oct. 6, 2014 – Jan. 9, 2015 – Carpenters, Boilermakers and Ironworkers.

Weekly information sessions held!

Contact Trade Winds To Success Training Society,  
Edmonton, AB, 780-471-9100.

Like us on Facebook 780-471-9100.

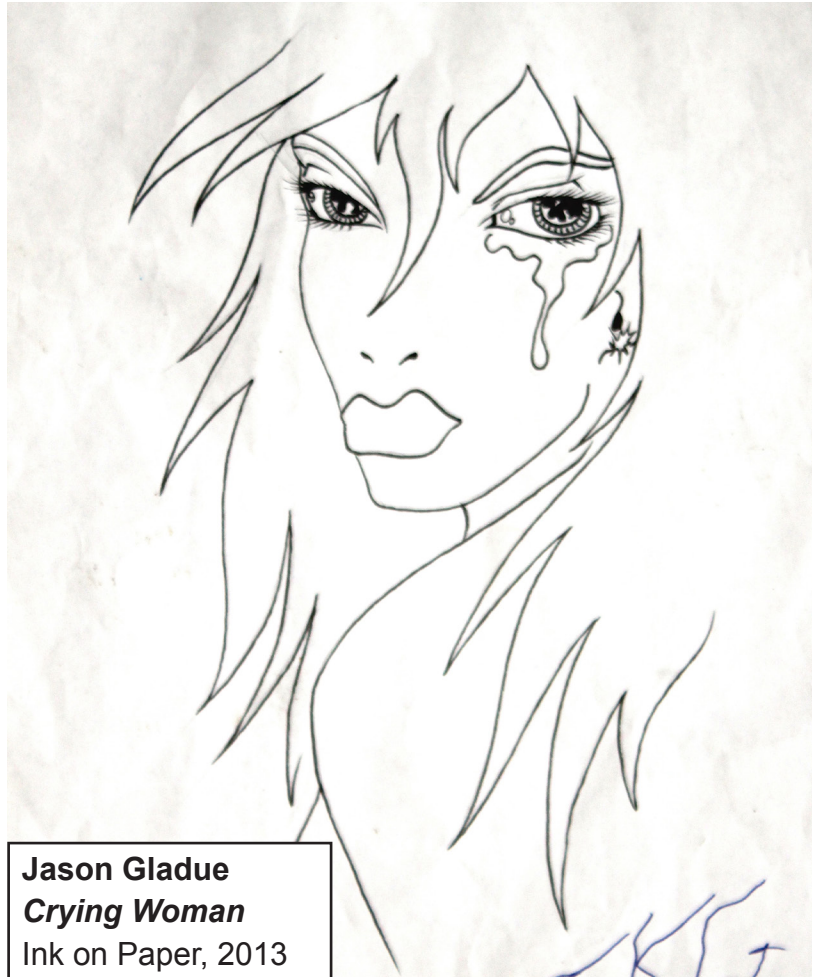




# ART BY JASON GLADUE



**Jason Gladue**  
***Eagle Warrior***  
Ink on paper, 2014



**Jason Gladue**  
***Crying Woman***  
Ink on Paper, 2013



**Jason Gladue**  
***Eagle***  
Pencil on paper, 2013

Jason Gladue is a prolific Fort McKay artist specializing in drawings and soapstone.



**Jason Gladue**  
***Eagle***  
Ink on paper, 2013



# JOIN US MAY 24TH FOR “ON THE RIVER”



**Maria Dunn, a Juno-nominated folk musician and songwriter, will be in Fort McKay May 24th to give a live performance.**

Fort McKay has experienced tremendous changes in the past 65 years. Ground Zero Productions of Edmonton is creating a live performance called *On The River* that reflects on these changes through song and video, telling this story through the lens of the life of former chief Dorothy McDonald.

Today Fort McKay is surrounded by the oil sands industry. This was not the case in the late 1940s when Dorothy was born. At that time, her family spent much of their time at Moose Lake - hunting, trapping and fishing. Starting when Suncor began production in 1967 and continuing up until today, the community has experienced rapidly accelerating contact with resource extraction.

*On The River* is a Video Ballad.

It's a live performance that combines new songs from Asani and Maria Dunn with video interviews from people speaking about Fort McKay and about Dorothy.

Maria Dunn is a Juno-nominated folk musician/songwriter based in Edmonton and often compared to Woody Guthrie for her keen social awareness and unvarnished songs about ordinary people. (Website: [www.maria-dunn.com](http://www.maria-dunn.com))

ASANI is an Aboriginal women's trio from Edmonton. They are Debbie Houle, Sarah Pocklington and Sherryl Sewepagaham. This circle of First Nations and Metis women have performed across Canada and internationally at such venues as Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C. and the Saddledome in Calgary. Asani composed the theme song for the CAMA's in 2005 and the honouring song for the Esquao Awards in 2009.

*On The River* is presented by Ground Zero Productions, a thirty year old professional theatre company. Ground Zero has toured Maria Dunn's two previous Video Ballads, “*GWG: Piece by Piece*” and “*Troublemakers*” throughout Alberta. The company's Artistic Director, Don Bouzek, has created the video segments for this show. His award winning video work has been broadcast by Access-TV and is

featured on many websites.

**Join us for a live performance of *On the River* at the Band Hall on Saturday, May 24 2014 at 7pm.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

This project is supported by the Fort McKay First Nations Chief and Council and a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts through their Theatre Section's Artists and the Community Program.



**ASANI has received a 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award for Aboriginal Songwriter of the Year and a 2010 Indian Summer Music Award for Best Spiritual Song. You can see the group perform May 24th in Fort McKay.**





# SKATING AWARDS BANQUET

The Skating Awards Banquet will be held in the Fort McKay Gym at 6 p.m. on May 22, 2014. Dozens of kids turned out for the very successful skating programs this past winter and they all learned to skate great. All had tremendous fun. The banquet is for all Learn To Skate partici-

pants, figure skating participants and also Fort McKay Hockey Academy members, and their families. The 2014 Learn To Skate program and the 2014 figure skating program was sponsored by TOTAL. New participants are also encouraged to attend the banquet to register for next year's

skating programs. Registration for next year's programs will gin at the banquet and registration forms will be available at the banquet. A fun skate at the arena will follow the banquet. For more information call Simon at 780-881-9096.



**Sandra Boucher and Harriet Champagne enjoy Free Skate time at the Fort McKay Hockey Arena. The last day for ice skating at the arena is May 25. The ice will be taken out the next day in preparation for summer programs.**

## OILERS' HOCKEY CAMP

Some very lucky hockey players participated in the Oilers Hockey Camp at MacDonald island Park from May 2nd to the 4th. In total, there were 100 kids from the Wood Buffalo region that were selected out of 600. In Fort McKay, seven hockey players were selected for the event. Those selected include Everett Quintal, Noah Fitzpatrick, Keegan Shott, Jace Shott, Kai Ro Grandjambe, Austin Beaton and Anton Grandjambe.

The first night started off with a community BBQ, where people got to meet the Oilers' current goalie Ben Scrivens as well as Fernando Pisani; a retired Oiler player. The following days, the young athletes learned various techniques taught through multiple daily on-ice sessions, dry land training, and nutrition clinics to help further the development of each participant.



**Ben Scrivens and Fernando Pisani with Kai Ro Grandjambe**





# SMOKE SIGNALS

## RECREATION

### **Mondays**

12-1pm Boot camp  
3:15- 4:15 Play on Practice  
(floor hockey)  
7-9pm Volleyball.

### **Tuesdays**

12-1pm Yoga.  
3:15-4:15pm Girls afterschool  
program 8-12 years

### **Wednesdays**

5:30-6:30 F.F. w.o. training  
6-7pm Teen Volleyball training  
7-9 Adult Volleyball

### **Thursdays**

12:15-12:45 HIIT Training

### **Fridays**

12-1pm Yoga.  
Wednesday May 7th  
(early Dismissal)

**Girls cooking lesson at the  
wellness centre 8-12yrs old  
Thursdays-Relay for life fund-  
raiser**

**May 8th carwash @arena May**

**15th Family Movie night 6pm**

**May 22nd Bake sale**

**May 29th Family movie night**

**Friday May 23rd Family swim-  
ming**

**Saturday May 31st Volleyball  
tournament.**

## WELLNESS CENTRE

### **Mondays**

**Young Chefs (10yrs+)**

**6:30-8:00pm**

**\*closed on May 18th**

### **Tuesdays**

**Traditional Dancers (6yrs +)**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

**Dream Catchers (10yrs +)**

**6-8pm**

### **Wednesdays**

**Archery (10yrs. +) 6:30-8:00pm**

### **Thursdays**

**Active Living Program**

**(10yrs. +) 6:00-8:00pm**

## FORT MCKAY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

### **Mondays**

ATC Child & Family Services –  
Foster Program & Family  
Enhancement.

Alcohol Anonymous (AA)

Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

Last Monday of month-proba-  
tion/ parole Services.

### **Tuesdays**

Women's Sharing Circle

7:00pm – 9.00pm.

### **Wednesdays**

Victim services – Victims of  
Crime support, Narcotics.

Anonymous (NA) Meeting

7:30pm – 8:30pm.

### **Thursdays**

NEAFAN – Fetal Alcohol

Syndrome Assessments.

Karaoke – 7:00pm– 9:00pm.

### **Saturdays**

Sweat Lodge – 1:00pm.

## HEALTH CENTRE

### **Mondays-Wednesdays**

The Doctor is in.

### **Tuesdays and Thursday**

Physiotherapy Dr. Taiwo

In take: May 23-30

Food Bank contact Lisa.

Immunizations: June 11 & 25  
from 10am-3pm.

Diabetes Walk: May 22

Safe Food Handling Course:

May 27, 28. Must be registered  
in advance.

Call Belinda for more informa-  
tion 780-828-2455.

For all bookings please call the  
Health Centre 780-828-2450.

Health Centre will be closed:

April 18/14 (Good Friday) and

April 22/14 (Easter Monday).

Safe Food Handling coming up  
in May please contact Belinda  
for my information.

Please call the Health Centre  
for all inquiries, 780-828-4048.

## MOOSE HIDE TANNING

**Please keep raw moosehides  
to donate for cultural purposes.  
Call Becky at 587-644-1134.**

Granny

